

The Signature

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Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily

Friday, August 2, 2002

Dental to teach Sailors the trade



By SN Michelle Watkins

Photo by SN Michelle Watkins

Staff writer

The America Red Cross worldwide offers a variety of programs for those wanting to get involved in the community or just to pick up training. The Dental Assistant Training program is one of them. It is a program in which the Naval Dental department and Red Cross conduct free classes for those wanting to learn dental skills. The goal of the program is to provide volunteers to work in the Dental Clinic.

The Dental assistant program is run by the Red Cross and the Dental Clinic. All volunteers are trained by dental technicians. Volunteers learn a variety of skills including chair side assistant duties, clerical, receptionist, and administrative duties. They also learn hands on dental radiology, and preventive dentistry.

Volunteers can gain work experience and can expand their opportunities for jobs down the road.

Volunteers for the program need to meet certain criteria. They must first fill out a volunteer agreement. Volunteers must be 18 years old, a high school graduate, and must become a Red Cross volunteer. They must also have a year left in their current duty station. If selected volunteers must agree to commit to a minimum of 300 hours, or 16 hours a week for six months.

All applications are reviewed by Red Cross and are submitted to the Dental Clinic. Applications are selected on the applicant's determination and desire to participate in the program. Only seven applicants will be selected. The deadline for all applications is Aug. 27.

Should I have Renter's Insurance?

By Peter Vietti

Housing Public Affairs Officer

Suppose the unthinkable were to occur: Mt. Etna erupts and leaves us all either covered in thick ash or creates havoc from powerful gyrations due to earthquake activity. What is to become of our personal belongings? How will we ever afford to replace those things which enable us to just live? Is there something which will allow peace of mind that we are "covered?" Yes, renter's insurance.

The Sigonella housing authority strongly urges all residents to obtain renter's insurance to protect personal property from fire, theft and vandalism as well as natural disaster.

What personal property does renters insurance cover? There are a multitude of belongings that companies will insure: clothing, furniture, stereo, jewelry and other personal possessions as well as natural disasters and liability for personal injuries incurred due to negligence of the tenant. In the event of a fire or break-in, you could still face repair or replacement costs—not a small feat, as the average person's belongings are valued at over \$20,000. Did you know that a rental insurance policy will also cover any damage or losses incurred in Government quarters up to and including Government property? Even though there are many items covered in a rental insurance policy, there are "special limitations" in these policies:

money, bank notes, coins, business property (on- and off-premises), Securities, negotiable instruments, watercraft, (including boat trailers, furnishings and equipment) trailers (other than boat trailers) jewelry and furs, firearms (limitations apply to theft only), silverware and gold (limitations apply to theft only). If you have this type of property, you may need this special coverage-either an endorsement or a personal articles policy. Ask your insurance agent about these.

How much renters insurance do you need? According to the home advisor at MSN.com, to determine how much insurance you need, begin by taking inventory of your possessions. If you can, videotape or take photographs of valuables, such as antiques or jewelry. Make copies of receipts and serial numbers for major appliances, electronics and furniture. It's a good idea to store your completed inventory list in a safe place such as a fireproof safe or with the rest of your files.

According to a poll of local insurers, the average family should be able to obtain renters insurance for about \$35-\$40 a month. Some insurers give a discount if you are insured through them for other types of insurance. A consultation either in person or online is needed to obtain a quote.

Happy renting and protect yourself and your belongings before it's too late!

Shipping wine not easy

Courtesy of U.S. Customs

While stationed in Sicily, many Sigonellans start wine collections and want to send it to the United States when their overseas tour ends. Personal Property does not allow shipping wines and spirits with household goods. With a little advance planning and patience, wine connoisseurs can still enjoy their favorite European vintages, but they need to find a way to ship their collection and surmount State, Federal, Customs and IRS rules. They also have to find a shipping company in the states that is willing to accept the wine.

"First contact the alcohol control board for the state you intend to ship the collection to and ask for the conditions they put on wine shipments quoting the amount, type and cost of the wine," said Michael L. Burkert of the European Command's Customs Executive Agency. "They will let you know what to do and how to pay any tax that needs to be paid." He added that the airport you ship the collection to must have a U.S. Customs Service (USCS) office.

"Then, if the state authorities allow wine shipments, find a wine merchant who ships wine collections." He pointed out that the U.S. Postal Service will not let you mail wine or other liquor products, and courier companies are often unwilling to ship wine. Some airlines will let you pay for excess checked baggage on the flight home but this is only a solution for a small collection. They allow four liters of duty free (one Foreign / three US Domestic) per adult.

After the wine merchant packs the collection, you receive a shipping document and a copy of the bill of sale for the tax and shipping costs. You must take these and a copy of your PCS orders to the transportation office before you fly to the States. There you can get a DD Form 1252 (Customs Declaration) which will help you claim back the shipping costs later. It is also best to find out your shipment's airline, flight number, date of arrival and, most important of all, its shipping document number before you fly.

"When you arrive stateside, go to the airport's cargo section with the shipping documents," Burkert continued. "They will give you additional paperwork to take to the USCS office." Customs will work out the duty and IRS tax and stamp your customs clearance. IRS tax depends on the alcoholic strength of the beverage concerned. "Take your customs clearance back to the cargo section where the collection is released to you," he said. He added that you may be able to claim the shipping costs from the finance office at your new duty station with the DD Form 1252 mentioned earlier. However, any duty or tax you pay is not reimbursable. Also be aware of your allotted household goods if you exceed the weight you may not be reimbursed.

Follow these rules and you can continue to enjoy the best products of Old World vineyards at your new stateside home for many years to come. Call a military customs office to find out more about shipping liquor products to the United States.

Protect yourself against Leishmaniasis

By Lt. Cmdr. David Weiss and Lt. Lawrence Sproul
Contributing writers

What is leishmaniasis? Leishmaniasis (LEASH-ma-NIGH-a-sis) is a parasitic disease spread by the bite of infected sand flies. There are several different forms of leishmaniasis. The most common forms are cutaneous, or skin leishmaniasis, which causes skin sores, and visceral (VIS-er-al) leishmaniasis, which affects some of the internal organs of the body (for example, spleen, liver, bone marrow).

What are the signs and symptoms of cutaneous leishmaniasis? People who have cutaneous leishmaniasis have one or more sores on their skin. The sores can change in size and appearance over time. They often end up looking somewhat like a volcano, with a raised edge and central crater. Some sores are covered by a scab. The sores can be painless or painful. Some people also have swollen glands near the sores (for example, under the arm if the sores are on the arm or hand).

What are the signs and symptoms of visceral leishmaniasis? People who have visceral leishmaniasis usually have fever, weight loss, and an enlarged spleen and liver (usually the spleen is bigger than the liver). Some patients have swollen glands. Certain blood tests are abnormal.

How common is leishmaniasis? In Sigonella we have about one case of cutaneous leishmaniasis per year. Recently we have had a case of visceral Leishmaniasis in a patient here in Sigonella. There has been one other case of confirmed visceral Leishmaniasis diagnosed at the Naval Hospital in the last four years. The true number of patients that have been diagnosed with Leishmaniasis after leaving Sigonella is not known.

Could I get leishmaniasis in the United States? Very rarely, people living in rural southern Texas have developed skin sores from cutaneous leishmaniasis.

How is leishmaniasis spread? Leishmaniasis is spread by the bite of some types of sand flies. Sand flies become infected by biting an infected animal host (for example, a rodent or a dog), or even biting an infected person. Since sand flies do not make noise when they fly, people may not realize they are present. Sand flies are only about one-third the size of a mosquito. Sand flies usually are most active in twilight, evening, and nighttime hours (from dusk to dawn). Sand flies are less active during the hottest time of the day. However, they will bite if they are disturbed, such as when a person brushes up against the trunk of a tree where sand flies are resting. People of all ages are at risk for leishmaniasis if they live or travel in Sicily. Small populations of sand flies have been found around NAS I, NAS II and Mineo Housing. The Preventive Medicine department at the hospital monitors insects that can transmit the disease. If an increase occurs, they will take action to control the sand flies.

If I were bitten by an infected sand fly, how quickly would I become sick? The disease usually does not develop rapidly. People with cutaneous leishmaniasis usually develop skin sores within a few weeks (sometimes as long as months) of when they were bitten. This is important as people could develop the disease up to six months after having been bitten in Sigonella. If someone develops symptoms after transferring from Sigonella, they need to inform their health care

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Italian phrase
of the week...

Senso unico.



(One way.)

SECURITY BLOTTER



Helping make the
community aware

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE 624-6389

July 22 - July 28

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

Traffic accidents without injuries - 10

Traffic accident with injuries - 5

Car break-ins - 2

DUI - 0

DUI's 2002 - 14

DUI's 2001 - 33

The
Signature

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Direct Line

Capt. Tim Davison, NASSIG
Commanding Officer



I recently received a note in the CO's Suggestion Box from a concerned Sigonellan about the emergency response procedures from our Flight Line Clinic. The questions revolved around an incident at the NAS II Gym in July where one of our shipmates hurt his ankle playing basketball after working hours. I'd like to take this opportunity to explain how our emergency response system works. It's imperative that everyone understands the proper procedures for contacting medical, security or the fire department.

During this particular instance, the call was made to Security, then directly to the Flight Line Clinic requesting medical assistance at the gym. For a multitude of reasons, one being flight operation requirements, the duty crew cannot respond to medical assistance calls until given clearance by the Hospital Emergency Room.

In the event of an emergency, the number to dial from a regular phone on base is 911. From a cell phone, or if assistance is required off base, the number is 095-86-1911.

In order to try and prevent future misunderstandings regarding emergency response procedures, we will ensure that the proper emergency phone numbers are posted at the gym, and other key sites around the bases.

In addition to the current local commercials we have running on AFN, which advertise our emergency response numbers, we'll continue to enhance the community's awareness by publishing the emergency numbers frequently in the base newspaper and through other communication outlets.

I would like to add that at one-third the national average, Naval Hospital Sigonella's emergency response time continues to be well above standards. I commend Capt. Garner and the entire staff at the Hospital and Flight Line Clinic for the professional and valuable services they continue to provide us here.

The Pulse

World Breastfeeding Week

By Lt. Cmdr. Karena M. Belin
Division Officer for the Maternal Child Unit, USNH Sigonella

Breastfeeding: Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies will be the theme of the twelfth annual World Breastfeeding Week celebrated from August 1-7, 2002. This celebration is part of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action's (WABA) ongoing campaign to increase public awareness of the importance of breastfeeding for both mothers and their infants.

The Unites States government has also recognized the advantages of breastfeeding and has included breastfeeding objectives in its 1990 and 2000 reports, Healthy People 2000 and Healthy People 2010. The national goal is to increase to at least 75 percent the portion of mothers who initiate breastfeeding and to increase to at least 50 percent the proportion who continue to breastfeed until their infants are at least six months old. As of 2000, only 60 percent of all hospital-born infants were receiving breastmilk at the time of discharge and only 15 percent were still breastfeeding at six months of age.

In 1997, The American Academy of Pediatrics identified breastfeeding "...as the ideal method of feeding and nurturing infants and recognized breastfeeding as primary in achieving optimal infant and child health, growth, and development." The Academy recommends the use of human milk as the only food source for infants during the first six months of life and at least through the second half of the first year with the addition of solid foods.

What has prompted all this attention toward breastfeeding? Over the last two decades there have been hundreds, if not thousands, of studies conducted comparing the differences between human breastmilk and artificial baby milk (formula). The research clearly shows that human milk is far superior to any formula and that the entire process of breastfeeding is a way to save lives, reduce illness, and protect our environment. In fact, policy makers have recognized that breastfeeding promotion efforts reduce national healthcare costs by enhancing the well-being of both mothers and children and will be launching the "National Breastfeeding Awareness Campaign" in 2003. The primary goal of the campaign will be to increase the awareness that human breastmilk is the best nutrition for babies during the first six months of life; while the second goal is to assure the public that breastfeeding is normal, desirable, and achievable.

Here in Sigonella, World Breastfeeding Week will be celebrated with poster displays in the Acute Care Clinic waiting area of the Naval Hospital, as well as the NAS 1 and Mineo Commissaries. Look for the informative handouts, stickers, and the gold double-looped ribbons, of which one loop represents the benefits for mothers, the other the benefits for babies. Breastmilk is the GOLD standard in infant nutrition; please wear or display a ribbon to show your support of breastfeeding.

- Benefits to Infants:
- Decreases incidence and/or severity of: diarrhea, respiratory infections, ear infections, bacterial meningitis, and urinary tract infections.
- Protects against: diabetes mellitus, certain childhood cancers, food allergies, eczema, and diseases of the colon.
- Enhances optimal brain and visual development.
- Benefits to Families
- Saves \$1,000-\$1,200 per year in the cost of formula.
- Benefits to Mothers:
- Improves post delivery weight loss.
- Diminishes post delivery blood loss.
- Reduces risk of ovarian, endometrial, and breast cancers.
- Decreases risk of brittle bones in later life.
- Benefits to Society
- Decreases the need for health care, thereby saving healthcare dollars that can be used to treat or cure other diseases.
- Eliminates formula can and container waste from landfills.
- Removes the need to use energy for the marketing and production of formulas.

Letters to the Editor

Galley Review

Dear Editor,

During my two weeks of active duty at NASSIG, I noticed a daily event at the NAS II Galley that I've never seen before in my Navy career of 28 years and it deserves recognition. Every day I go to the Galley I notice the people who eat there. The Galley reminds me of a marketplace of long ago where people of the community got together to share a meal and conversation. I have never seen such a family atmosphere at any base I've visited. Every day I see men and women military and civilian workers, children and spouses, pilots and crews, and people of all backgrounds coming together for a meal. What a great way for everyone who is a part of the NASSIG family to get together. This arrangement has to be a morale booster for everyone who is part of the demanding environment here.

I also admire the quality of the food that is prepared for the enjoyment of all who go there and the outstanding cleanliness. It's obvious the staff take great pride in the service they provide.

-Cmdr. Dan McCullough
SPAWAR San Diego, CA

Pity Party

Dear Editor,

I was appalled with the Mineo residents when I saw "Feedback" that aired on AFN Sigonella on July 24. I just wanted to write and remind those who complain to housing, to your neighbors, and to those who used up valuable airtime that you chose to live in Mineo. Remember when you first arrived here in Italy and you went to look at the available housing prospects, Mineo came HIGHLY recommended. Okay, lets take a look at why Mineo was so highly recommended, central air and heat, dish washer, washer and dryer, front and back yards, recreational centers, commissary, playgrounds for children to play on, spigots to hook up a hose, fire station, ball fields, scheduled activities for your children, and the basic American standards that we all take for granted. I admit, when I had it, I took the grass I walked on for granted...now I would love to mow a yard, but I can't, because I choose to live in an apartment. (The only housing available to a family with one child, other than economy at the time of my arrival.) I feel that those who complain about your situation only need to look at the next family, who may not have the very things that you complain about. I often find myself wondering if the discontented Mineo residents have nothing to do with all their amenities but sit around and have pity parties.

-Cyndi Cambia

KITCHEN KORNER

Family Style Pansit

By Bea Cook

Contributing writer

- 1 package (7 1/2 ounces) long rice
- 4 large dried mushrooms
- 1/2 pound lean pork
- 1/4 pound shrimp
- 2 tablespoons salad oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cans (14 1/2 ounce size) chicken broth
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 packages (4 ounce size) fried egg noodles
- lemon wedges
- Soak long rice and mushrooms in warm water for 30 minutes; drain. Cut long rice in three-inch lengths. Remove stems from mushrooms dice caps. Slice pork thinly. Shell, clean, and cut shrimp into small pieces. In a large skillet, heat oil; sauté garlic and brown pork. Stir in shrimp and mushrooms; sauté one minute. Add broth and pepper; bring to a boil. Add long rice and noodles, stirring lightly until noodles are cooked. Serve with lemon wedges.

S.A.F.

Dogs: 4

Cats: 1

Puppies: 0

Kittens: 2



Call 624-3200 for the Stray Animal Facility if you are looking for a particular animal (i.e. Breed, size, color or age).



From the Fleet

Rumsfeld: Leaking Classified Info

'Outrageously Irresponsible'

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem with Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Anyone in the Department of Defense (DoD) who would leak classified information to the press is so “outrageously irresponsible” that an investigation to find that person is worth the cost, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said recently.

Rumsfeld ordered the Air Force’s Office of Special Investigation to look into a leak that is the purported basis of a July 5 New York Times article on a secret war plan for an attack on Iraq. The information in the article allegedly came from a top-secret document provided by an anonymous defense official.

“I think anyone who has a position where they touch a war plan has an obligation to not leak it to the press or anybody else, because it kills people,” Rumsfeld said in a Pentagon press briefing.

He was adamant that the person who leaked the document should be jailed. He said people could get killed if others start treating “war plans like paper airplanes” they can fly to anybody who wants them. “I think it is so egregious, so terrible, that I decided to have an investigation notwithstanding the cost,” Rumsfeld said.

According to military legal experts, jail time for such a crime is a real possibility. A senior defense official explained military people caught leaking classified information can be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and civilians, under the Espionage Act.

“Depending on the severity of the leak, people caught passing classified information could spend significant time in jail under the Espionage Act and the UCMJ,” he said. In times of war, the death penalty is even a possibility if the leak were egregious enough, he added.

At a minimum, individuals caught leaking classified information would lose their security clearances, which usually means the loss of their jobs as well, the official said.

During the briefing, Rumsfeld also said DoD employees who know of leaks should come forward. “I hope that if there’s anyone in the Department of Defense who knows who did that, that they will give someone in a position of responsibility that information, because they have every bit as

big an obligation to do that as they do to not release it in the first place,” he said.

Rumsfeld also vehemently dismissed the notion that someone might have leaked the information to expose a flawed plan, thus saving lives.

“There is nothing you could say that would lead me to believe that the individual was well motivated and trying to serve his country by violating federal criminal law — nothing you could say,” he said.

Navy Asks Sailors to Define Their Jobs

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Over the next 18 months, more than 50,000 Sailors will determine how the Fleet of the future is trained and what its enlisted force needs to know to compete for advancement.

The Navy has chartered a complete, bottom-up review of its enlisted Sailors’ occupational standards (OCCSTDS) to get an accurate measure of what Sailors do to support the mission. The data will be used to improve training and detailing, help design manning for ships of the future, and ensure the Navy is ready to meet future challenges.

Occupational standards are task statements that define what Sailors must be able to do and at which paygrade they are required to be able to accomplish those tasks. These new standards won’t just be a list of tasks, but will now be linked to the things that make completing them possible, such as knowledge and tools.

“Our current system of occupational standards has been around since 1973 and we need change,” said Rear Adm. John Harvey, Director of Total Force Programming and Manpower Management for the office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C. “The old structure has served the Navy well, but we need to do better.

“Sailors are at the heart of this effort. With their input we’ll build on what we have to create a system that responds to change better. We cannot waste Sailors’ time or taxpayers’ money on training that isn’t efficient and effective; this study will give us the means to meet these commitments.”

All ratings are occupational fields that encompass one or more jobs that Sailors perform full-time. Also, many of the jobs that Sailors do full-time, such as diver or instructor, have never had occupational standards. This study will help the Navy better understand these important jobs.

To manage this process the Navy has put together

a team of military and civilian organizations that includes the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA); Navy Manpower Analysis Center (NAVMAC); SkillsNET Corporation; and Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDC).

A Web site is being developed for selected Sailors to logon and contribute their input. Online help will guide them through the process, but they will also be able to call or email for help. The team estimates each Sailor will spend from one to six hours completing the work, depending on which level they are participating in. For convenience, those hours can be spread over a period of up to two weeks.

Several hundred Sailors will be contacted during the next few weeks to start the process. They will log into the Web site and review existing work-related task statements. These statements were drawn from existing occupational standards, personnel qualification standards (PQS), and in some cases descriptions of similar civilian jobs.

After Sailors identify the tasks they perform, they will be prompted to create their own statements to describe their tasks. This part will take each Sailor about three hours.

When completed and combined with the inputs of their colleagues, senior Sailors will review the consolidated task statements on at least two separate occasions. Participants in this phase can expect to spend up to six hours reviewing the tasks. In the second review, the tasks will get a quick, one-hour review by a larger number of Sailors to ensure quality and completeness.

The next step will arrange tasks into clusters of similar tasks. Several hundred more senior Sailors who will assign associated knowledge elements and tools needed to perform the tasks will review the task clusters. This step should take the experts about four hours.

By August of 2003, each of the 140 separate functional areas will contain a comprehensive list of task clusters that are linked to the knowledge and tools that enable Sailors to perform their jobs. At this point, around 25,000 Sailors will do a final survey that should take an hour and a half.

“If you are selected to participate in this project, I ask that you give it your best effort,” said Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark in his message to the Fleet about this project. “If you are in a position of leadership and your Sailors are chosen, please ensure that they are available to do this work.

“The success of this initiative depends entirely on the experience, perspective and expertise that only our Sailors can provide.”



VA Meeting

The Veterans Affairs Representative will be at NAS Sigonella on Aug. 21, to hold a general GMT. Contact Fleet & Family Support Center at 624-4291 for further information.

SAWS Dogwash

On Saturday, Aug. 3, from 9:30 until 3:30 p.m. at the Mineo Fire Department in support of SAWS. There will be dog biscuits, sodas, and a chance for one lucky dog to win a new leash and collar! Each person who pays for a dog wash, receives a chance to win the leash and collar. Also, anyone interested in participating in the fundraiser, please email saws_02@yahoo.com.

Flying Club

We are currently looking into the possibility of forming a Navy Flying Club for the NASSIG community. One of the first requirements is to get an idea of how many personnel are interested. The more members, the cheaper the dues. The club plans to offer primary training up to Commercial and Instrument. There will be ground school instructions for all ratings and a testing facility for all ratings. If you want to learn to fly or work on that instrument or commercial rating this club will be the way to do it. AM1 Childers is TAD back in the states now and is gathering information for the club during his trip. He will be back in a couple months and we would like to have some numbers when he gets back. If you are interested please contact CDR DeLoach at 624-2359.

NMCRS Volunteers

The NMCRS wants you as a volunteer! There are great benefits involved, which include: travel reimbursement, childcare reimbursement, recognition and fun. It may also be used as a reference on your resume. The work environment is pleasant and full of friendly, smiling faces. It also provides a great opportunity to meet new people here in the Sigonella community.

The NMCRS provides many services to active duty personnel and their family members. Budget for Baby, financial counseling, STAP, visiting nurses, and the thrift store are all programs we provide. The above programs are where we need volunteers to assist our military personnel and their families.

Volunteers are the heart of this society, so come and join the team! For more information call 624-4212, or stop by the office, located in Bldg. T210 next to the Golden Anchor.

High School Football

To play this year, you must have a valid sports physical in your hand to turn in to the coach to start practice for any sport. To make it easy for you, the school and the hospital have coordinated to give sports physicals in the Stephen Decatur High School gym on Aug. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you miss this clinic, you will have to schedule an appointment with the hospital for your physical and you will have to miss vital practices until you get the physical. So take advantage of the arrangement and get your physical on Friday, Aug. 16!

Football practice starts on Monday, Aug. 19 at 3 p.m. on the new football field at the sports complex behind the NAS I barracks. Remember to drink plenty of water before coming to the field and to bring your sports physical exam sheet with you to turn in to Coach Wilmot or Coach Volosevich. The Jaguars have an awesome staff of coaches this year who are eager to get you into shape and help you “go for the gold.” The Jaguars will be playing Vicenza, Aviano, Giessen and Brussels during the regular season. A schedule will be promulgated a little later, but the first home game will be against Giessen, GE on Sept. 14.

Ivory import ban

By Robert Szostek
USEUCOM Customs PAO

Mannheim, Germany – U.S. personnel should not buy ivory while stationed or vacationing outside the USA, customs officials advise. The reason is that imports of ivory into the United States are prohibited under the Endangered Species Act and the African Elephant Conservation Act. The ban applies to both unprocessed ivory tusks and worked ivory pieces such as carved figures, jewelry or piano keys. However, exceptions exist for items such as:

bona fide antiques more than 100 years old which can be imported with a valid permit;

African elephant ivory items that the owner registered with U.S. Customs before leaving the USA that are being re-imported; and

African elephant ivory items acquired before Feb. 4, 1977, when accompanied by a valid permit.

“People who have bought ivory overseas or who did not register their ivory with customs are obviously in a bind,” said Michael L. Burkert of the European Command’s Customs Executive Agency. He advises people to write to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and try to get an import permit. The address is:

Office of Management Authority
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 700
Arlington, Virginia 22203
Tel: 1-800-358-2104, FAX: 703-358-2281
<http://permits.fws.gov/>

A recent U.N. decision to relax some trade controls on African elephants did not change the ban on ivory imports into the United States. Ivory acquired abroad that is not a properly documented antique could be confiscated when it arrives in the USA. Whenever Customs or FWS inspectors seize ivory at borders or airports, the purchase price is not refunded and the owner can be fined.

More information on ivory and other endangered species issues is available online at www.fws.gov.

AD

Births

June 19, 2002

Brenda and Thomas Andreotti
Bryce Antonio Andreotti
19 ¼ inches, 6 pounds 9 ounces

July 15, 2002

Katrina and Carl Doud
Carl W. Doud
20 inches, 7 pounds 10 ounces

July 17, 2002

February Martinez and James Fraley
Tyler Arturo Fraley
21 ½ inches, 7 pounds 15 ounces

July 20, 2002

Maria and Antonio Conlu
Shaylee Anne Conlu
19 ¾ inches, 5 pounds 9 ounces



An E-5 was found guilty of unauthorized absence and was awarded 60 days restriction, reduction to the next inferior pay grade, and forfeiture of \$840 pay per month for two months.

An E-3 was found guilty of unauthorized absence and was awarded 60 days restriction, reduction to the next inferior pay grade, and forfeiture of \$511 pay per month for two months.

AD

By Alberto Lunetta
Community Relations

Italian News

SICILIAN CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

Medieval festival kicks off in Motta

From Aug. 2 through 25, Motta will host a medieval festival that will bring to life the customs and spirit of the Middle Ages. The festival takes place within the three city *Rioni* (districts): *Panzerà*, *Vecchia Matrice* and *Giovani Maestri*. Each district has its own schedule of events that include medieval plays and performances, banquets and music. Craftsmen, tumblers, minstrels, jugglers and other re-enactors will entertain festival goers with shows, dances, demonstrations and games.

The *Panzerà* District located along via Regina Margherita and via Vittorio Emanuele will kick off the festival tonight at 8:30 p.m.

On Aug. 25, a magnificent period costume parade and a flag waiving show will be performed at 6 p.m.

Every evening from Aug. 2 through 7, starting at 8:30, medieval theatre and music shows will be performed along the district roads and squares.

On Aug. 5 and 7, starting at 8:30 p.m., booths will sell medieval food that will be prepared according to the original recipes. Cereal soups, roasted game, *salsiccie* (sausages), *couscous*, and local wines are among the specialties that the festival attendees can sample.

Octopus festival begins in Acicastello

Plan to attend a mouthwatering three-day food festival celebrating the delicious

Insalata di Polpo (octopus salad), one among the most famous taste-tempting Sicilian appetizers. The festival begins today and will run through Aug. 4. Every evening at 8 p.m. you and your family can enjoy the freshness of the local octopus that will be boiled and dressed with olive oil, lemon juice, salt, pepper, garlic and parsley.

The festival is held along the Lungomare Scardamiano, the seafront near the port of Acicastello. For eight Euro you can get a plate of octopus salad a choice of beverages and a panino (bread).

International Motorcycle Meeting

Don't miss one of the most popular biker rallies in Sicily. From Aug. 8 through 11, Belpasso will host the 26th Etna Motorcycle Meeting featuring a parade of vintage motorcycles, bike shows, rallies, fireworks shows, field events, exhibitions and parties.

To pre-register and for more information on lodging, camping and meals contact the Belpasso Motorcycle Club at 095-913131 or check its web site address at www.motoradunoetna.it. The Belpasso Motorcycle Club is located in via XVI Traversa n. 75 in Belpasso.

Events in Mineo

Tomorrow at 9 p.m., a medieval tournament will be held at the *Campo sportivo Nunziata* (Mineo's soccer stadium).

A fashion show will be held on Aug. 10 at the City hall at 9 p.m.

On Aug. 11, a Ukraine dance group will

perform a spectacular Cossack ballet in piazza Buglio (main square) at 9 p.m.

Manolo and Los Gypsies, a talented band playing progressive pop-oriented flamenco, will perform on Aug. 17 in piazza Buglio at 9 p.m.

Turkey competition in Collesano

On Aug. 3 at 10 p.m. a spectacular direct elimination run featuring 16 turkeys will be held in Collesano, a small town

nestled in the Madonie Mountains in the province of Palermo. Each Pipiu (turkey), raised by a skilled "trainer," represents a city district. During the competition that features two turkeys at a time, trainers incite their turkeys to run by gently nudging them with a little stick. The bird is not maltreated in any way. The trainer who displays poor sportsmanship abusing his turkey will be disqualified from the competition.

Earlier in the evening, the famous flag waivers from the Motta Rione Panzera (Panzera district) will perform a spectacular show at 6:30 p.m. throughout the streets of the town's center.

Later at 9 p.m., a parade in mediaeval period costumes leaves from piazza Carricaturi (main square) and proceeds along the historic center.



Photo courtesy of Circolo Sportivo Collesano

On Aug. 3 at 10 p.m. The *Paliu du Pipiu* (Turkey's Palio), a spectacular direct elimination run featuring 16 turkeys will be held in Collesano, a small town nestled in the Madonie Mountains in the province of Palermo. The event also features a parade in mediaeval period costumes and an amazing flag waiving show.

Collesano developed in the 12th century around Norman Castle, whose ruins can still be seen today. The city features beautiful churches and palaces.

Collesano can be reached easily. Exit Buonfornello on the Catania- Palermo highway and then follow directions for Campo Felice. Once in Campo Felice drive for about eight miles until you reach Collesano.

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES: Self-deception regarding your own worth may lead you down the wrong path. Don't push your luck with your boss. There may be opportunities to attend social functions that are linked to work. You will have no problem getting along with clients.

TAURUS: Do not let in-laws upset you. Be honest in your communication and don't lose your cool. Opportunities for financial gains through investments and games of chance are likely. Business trips will be more productive than trying to fight the red tape facing you. You must be careful not to trust just anyone.

GEMINI: You will attract potential lovers, but be sure that they're unattached. Look into ways to better yourself through improving your dietary habits and daily routines. You can expect opposition at work. Don't let your competition be privy to information that could be incriminating.

CANCER: You may have more people on your domestic scene than anticipated. Elders may need your help. Attempt to face key issues with lovers or problems could escalate. You will feel the limitations if you have been overdoing it. Exhaustion combined with overindulgence could result in minor health problems.

LEO: Get thinking about prolonging longevity. Focus, and concentrate on yourself and your future. Romantic relationships could be under pressure. You may be tempted to spend too much on entertainment or luxury items. Tone down and put some of that hard earned cash into a safe, long-term investment.

VIRGO: Your lack of attention may have been a factor. You can get ahead if you work diligently behind the scenes. Try and avoid getting involved in idle chatter or gossip that might get you in trouble. Don't get involved in other people's problems.

LIBRA: Don't push your mate if you want to keep this union going. Expand your knowledge and sign up for courses and seminars. Problems on the home front might be a little disconcerting. You may want to put everyone to work on a project that will keep them all too busy to complain.

SCORPIO: Now is the time for completing hobbies that you've been working on for a long time. Investments may not be as lucrative as you thought. Do not overspend on entertainment. Don't involve yourself in the emotional problems of those you work with. You are best to keep hard feelings to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS: Now is the time for completing hobbies that you've been working on for a long time. Investments may not be as lucrative as you thought. Do not overspend on entertainment. Don't involve yourself in the emotional problems of those you work with. You are best to keep hard feelings to yourself.

CAPRICORN: You can make money through real estate or by using your head when it comes to personal investments. New friendships will develop through group events. Not the best week for business trips. You might find that delays will cause setbacks and upset.

AQUARIUS: Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. The only thing you'll accomplish is a bad reputation. Too much too fast will be the attitude surrounding your home environment. Do not let them in on your plans if you want things to run smoothly. You can bet that situations will get out of hand if you allow others to interfere.

PISCES: New partnerships will develop if you join investment groups. You can become obsessed with detail and must be sure to divide your time appropriately. You may want to clear the air where older relatives are concerned. Someone you care about may not be too well.

TRIVIA

What year did the dodo bird become extinct?
How long did it take Sullivan to KO Kilrain in the last bare knuckle boxing match in 1889?
What color is the fur of a newborn leopard cub?
Which racehorse owns the fastest time in Kentucky Derby history?
Madonna's album, *The Immaculate Collection*, is dedicated to whom?
(Answers on page 7)

Best Sellers--DVD's

Lord of the Rings
Amelie
The Simpson's Complete Second Season
Monsters, Inc.
The Royal Tenebaums



They did what? Booby trapped!

(April 1999, South Africa) In South Africa, car jacking has become popular in recent years. The South African law has lenient provisions for self-defense, and allows "lethal action" if someone's personal property is in danger. Citizens are inventive in creating martial security systems for their cars. Poison gas, acid showers, flamethrowers and automatic gunfire are not unknown.

One such security system relied upon an airbag installed in the car roof. If a driver sat down without disabling the mechanism, the airbag would inflate and hit the victim atop his head with a force strong enough to render him unconscious.

And that is exactly what happened to Pieter Niewoudt, who, armed with a pistol, attempted to steal this vehicle. When the airbag exploded, he thought that someone was shooting at him, and he instinctively fired the pistol twice. Unfortunately for him, his gun was still in his pocket at the time. One bullet hit his knee, and the other lodged into the man's groin.

Off the Rack! Chat Room



Wait on seeing this film! Wait until the cows come home and you have nothing better to do to amuse yourself. *Chat room* is the worst movie I've seen in several years!

The Plot of chat room has three scam artists trying to win a highschool bet to see who could bring the most beautiful woman to their 10-year reunion. The prize is a very well invested \$50 that grew to become \$50,000 in that time. The three unsuccessful men attempt to surf chat rooms online to find the perfect woman in order to win the bet, what they find instead are cultists, men and coyote uglies.

The movie continuously throws in the ugly duckling who later becomes a swan, a little like another film, *She's All That*. Too bad the film didn't try to play off that story line, it might have already been done before, but it beats this ending.

Now, this movie had great potential, but I believe the director must have gotten bored or just doesn't know what he's doing. In the middle of the film one of the guys meets up with the fly girl, who collects her own liposuction which she keeps on her mantle above her fireplace. As they go into detail of the fly girl, as the scenes gets rather putrid, a little to much to take in for what would be considered a comedy. This is where I wanted to stop watching, but decided to hang on until the ending, don't be fooled yourself.

This film is a gigantic bomb ready to spoil your day. There's nothing like sticking through a terrible movie only to find that it also has a terrible end.

And don't be allured by the dressy cover of the film, it was the only part that was put together well.

By JO3 Jay Price

The Medical Service Corps: before & after

By Lt. Charles Foster
Contributing writer

The history of the Medical Service Corps includes the history of its predecessor, the Navy Hospital Corps. During World War I, the number of warrant officers in the Hospital Corps increased significantly and sixty-five Pharmacists and Chief Pharmacists were given temporary commissions in the Medical Corps of the Navy. Although a few of these officers retained their temporary commissions following the end of the war, the majority reverted to their prior status.

The need for an all officer category composed of individuals trained in administrative, professional, and scientific specialties traditionally allied with medicine had long been recognized. During World War II, 1429, officers were given temporary appointments in the Hospital Corps during the war. In addition, a total of 845 pharmacists, optometrists, and other specialists and scientists allied to medicine and dentistry were given temporary appointments as Naval Reserve officers. The vital role played by these two groups of officers in the accomplishment of the wartime mission of the Navy Medical Department further emphasized the need for a permanent officer category to compliment and supplement the existing officer corps than compromising the Medical Department.

The Medical Service Corps was authorized Aug. 4, 1947, as a staff corps of the Navy by the Army-Navy Medical Service Corps Act of 1947. The Navy Medical Service Corps was created with four specialty sections: Supply and Administration, Optometry, Allied Sciences, and Pharmacy. The authorized personnel strength of the Corps was limited to 20 percent of the number of Medical Corps officers.

Today, the Medical Service Corps is the most highly diversified Corps within the Navy Medical Department. An integral part of Navy medicine, the Medical Service Corps is comprised of a multidisciplinary team of commissioned Naval officers in clinical, scientific, and administrative health care fields. The Medical Service Corps now has more than 3,200 active duty and reserve officers in the grades of Ensign to Rear Admiral. Health care scientists and clinical care specialists make up about 60 percent of the total Corps, serving in 22 different specialties performing countless duties on multiple platforms continuing the mission which was identified over 52 years ago. Health care administrators comprise the remaining 40 percent. Medical Service Corps officers serve in more than 250 Naval and medical commands throughout the world. About 65 percent serve in facilities deliv-

ering direct patient care and 35 percent serve in operational units, training and research commands, occupational and preventive medicine units, material and logistic support commands, and headquarters commands.

Here in Sigonella, 24 Medical Service Corps officers are assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital and 10 to the Navy Environmental Protection Mobile Unit - 7 (NEPMU-7), with the following specialties: Clinical Psychology, Dietetics/Food Management, Entomology, Environmental Health, Financial Management, Health Care Administration, Health Care Information Systems, Industrial Hygiene, Material Logistics, Microbiology, Optometry, Patient Administration, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistants, Plans Operations & Medical Intelligence.

Kill brushfires

By Stephen Vitek
Contributing writer

As most of you have noticed we have received very little rain this year and subsequently the surrounding community is very dry. Every year about this time the Fire Department is called out to extinguish brush fires that endanger the NAS I, II and Niscemi boundaries.

With temperatures soaring into the 90s and 100s, you can well imagine the strain fire fighters endure while wearing gear to fight brush fires. You can help overt brush fires by using your vehicles ashtray instead of discarding cigarette butts onto the road or into a ditch.

Our fire regulations limit surrounding grass, weeds and vegetation to a height not exceed 24 inches. The Contract Services Department usually monitor the grounds of the Station. Any areas that need attention can be reported to PWD.

All authorized "Smoking Areas" should have a "smokers stack" or pail filled with sand for cigarette disposal. Dispose of your barbeque charcoal to a metal lid container well after the coals have cooled. Do not dispose charcoal to the Dumpster until the following day. A little consideration will greatly reduce the heat related injuries fire fighters often suffer when extinguishing fires during the summer months.

SIG SPORTS

Upcoming Events:

Co-Ed Softball Tournament: Aug. 9-11

Support the Women's Varsity Softball Team by entering this once a year double elimination tournament. There must be at least three women on the field at all times during the tournament. Everything else is the same as in the intramural season. Let's go ladies...show 'em how it's done! For more information, call Ed Schwenk at 335-5790412 or x2642.

5-on-5 Inner Tube Water Polo Tournament: Aug. 10 (noon-6:30 p.m.)

Are you hot? We have the perfect way for you to cool off and have fun at the same time. Get your team together and sign up at the NAS II Pool for this first time event. Don't worry...nobody knows how to play. It's easy to pick up the game. There will be a free clinic on Aug. 5, 7 & 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to teach you the basics and to allow you to get the feel of having a rubber tube around your butt while you maneuver around the pool trying to score. Sign up by Thursday, Aug. 8 and be at the pool by high noon on Aug. 10 for a double elimination tourney followed by awards and a free BBQ! For more information, call the NAS II Pool at x5335.

LEIS

continued from front page

provider of a possible sand fly exposure.

How will my health care provider know if I have leishmaniasis? Your health care provider will ask you about any signs or symptoms of leishmaniasis you may have, such as skin sores that have not healed. If you have skin sores, your health care provider will likely want to take some samples directly from the sores. A blood test for detecting antibody (immune response) to the parasite can be helpful, particularly for cases of visceral leishmaniasis. Diagnosing leishmaniasis can be difficult.

Is leishmaniasis treatable? Yes, most people who have cutaneous leishmaniasis do not need to be hospitalized during their treatment.

How is leishmaniasis prevented? The best way for travelers to prevent leishmaniasis is by protecting themselves from sand fly bites. Vaccines and drugs for preventing infection are not yet available. To decrease their risk of being bitten, travelers should:

Stay in well-screened or air-conditioned areas as much as possible. Avoid outdoor activities, especially from dusk to dawn, when sand flies are the most active. When outside, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks. Tuck your shirt into your pants.

Apply insect repellent on uncovered skin and under the ends of sleeves and pant legs. Follow the instructions on the label of the repellent. The most effective repellents are those that contain the chemical DEET (N,N-diethylmeta-toluamide). The concentration of DEET varies among repellents. Repellents with DEET concentrations of 30 to 35 percent are quite effective, and the effect should last about four hours. Lower concentrations should be used for children (no more than 10 percent DEET). Repellents with DEET should be used sparingly on children from two to six-years-old and not at all on children less than two-years-old. Not much information is available on the possible harmful effects of DEET in human pregnancies. But because DEET is considered toxic in high enough doses, it is generally recommended that pregnant women avoid using repellents containing DEET. If you're looking for a more natural alternative, try using something with citronella oil in it. Citronella oil comes from a type of grass

3-on-3 Wallyball Tournament: Play starts August 12

You have to try this zany off-the-wall sport! Wallyball is basically volleyball played in a racquetball court with a blue rubber ball. You can bounce your shots off the walls, making it challenging for your opponents to return. It sounds crazy but you'll get addicted! If you missed our free clinic, have no fear...it's only for fun. Give it a shot. Sign up at the NAS I or NAS II Fitness & Sports Centers by Aug. 7. Free entry! Awards for the top three finishers! For more information, call Ron at X2710.

Trinacria Challenge 3-Club golf Tournament: Aug. 10 (9 a.m. tee off)

It is way to hot to be carrying that huge bag of clubs up and down Mt. Etna all day long. This tournament will force each participant to choose three clubs to play the entire eighteen holes at Il Picciolo Golf Club. Otherwise, it's straight up golf. You say you can drive the ball 250 yards with a pitching wedge? Let's see it. Register at the mandatory players meeting on Aug. 8 at 4 p.m. at Jox Sports Bar. Transportation, awards and lunch are provided. For more information, call Ron at x2710. See you on the links!

and is considered safe for pregnant women.

Spray clothing with permethrin-containing insecticides. The insecticide should be reapplied after every five washes. Spray living and sleeping areas with an insecticide to kill insects. If you are not sleeping in an area that is well screened or air-conditioned, use a bed net and tuck it under your mattress. If possible, use a bed net that has been soaked in or sprayed with permethrin. The permethrin will be effective for several months if the bed net is not washed. Keep in mind that sand flies are much smaller than mosquitoes and therefore can get through smaller holes. Fine-mesh netting (at least 18 holes to the inch; some sources say even finer) is needed for an effective barrier against sand flies. This is particularly important if the bed net has not been treated with permethrin. However, it may be uncomfortable to sleep under such a closely woven bed net when it is hot.

What should I do if I think I might have leishmaniasis? This information is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. If someone is concerned that they may have this disease please schedule an appointment as soon as possible with the Primary Care Provider. The clinic phone number for family members is 624-4622. The Flight Line Clinic phone number for active duty is 624-5455.

What do I do if I think my pet may have Leishmaniasis? Your animal may have Leishmaniasis if they have any of the following symptoms: Skin lesions (most common), loss of weight, lymphadenopathy (swollen glands), eye lesions, nose bleeds, difficulty walking, anemia or weakness, kidney failure or diarrhea. If you are concerned that your pet may be infected with Leishmaniasis or want to find out about preventative measures please contact Veterinary Services at 624-3773. Other Animals that may carry Leishmaniasis include rodents, gerbils, bats, porcupine and Foxes.

A blood test of the animal can be obtained for Leishmaniasis. This animal blood is sent to a laboratory in Catania for testing. The cost of the blood test is approximately \$55. If your pet requires treatment for Leishmaniasis the cost of the medication will be about \$200. Lab testing and medication costs will be paid for by the pet owner. For preventative measures for domestic animals please contact Veterinary Services.

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